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Student Newspapers

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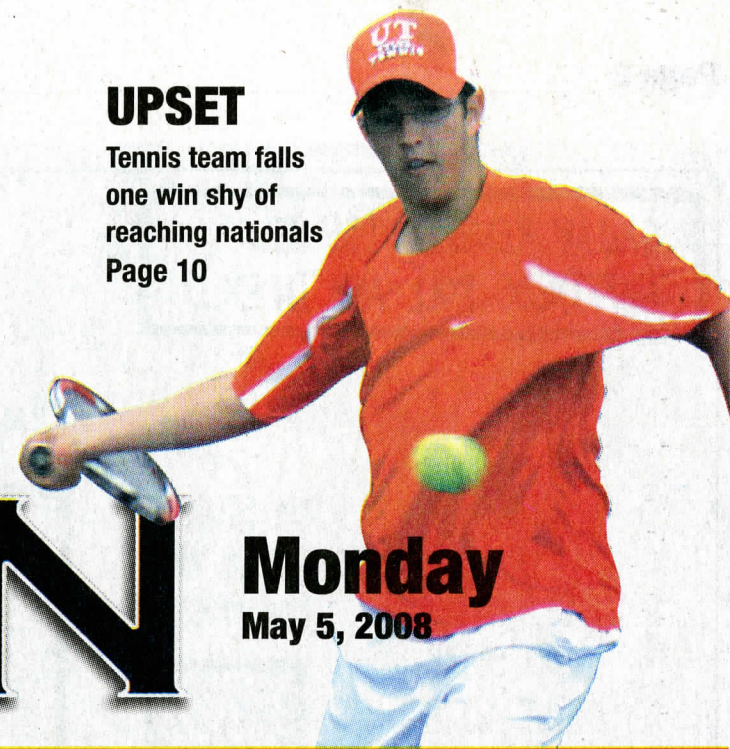
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NATIONAL COLUMNISTS DAY

April 18, the death of famous World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle is memorialized, recognizing columnists around the world. *Talon* staff and contributing writers contemplate the true purpose of a columnist. – Page 3

UPSET

Tennis team falls one win shy of reaching nationals
Page 10



Monday
May 5, 2008

PATRIOT

TALON

Volume 39, Issue 13

The University of Texas at Tyler

No leads in stabbing case; police search for suspects

By Anthony Croff
Editor in Chief

A suspect remains at large and police have no leads regarding the April 25 stabbing of an Ornelas Hall resident assistant, University Police Chief Mike Medders said.

At approximately 1:30 a.m., an unknown offender came out of the woods and stabbed Gabe Sindelar, 21, in the abdomen while he was walking on the trail near Lake Drive, which runs between Patriot Village and Ornelas Hall, according to a press release.

Sindelar described the offender as a black male in his mid-20s, short hair, no facial hair, approximately 6'2" with a slender build, wearing baggy blue jeans and a white t-shirt, according to a press release.

Police searched the campus after the incident, and Sindelar was treated for the non-life-threatening wound at

East Texas Medical Center, according to the release.

"At this time there are no new developments," Medders said on Friday. "We are still interviewing the victim and others relevant to the case."

Sindelar did not respond to repeated attempts to reach him for comment.

Danielle Williams, the Ornelas Hall desk assistant at the time of the incident who called police, said Sindelar told her he walked to Patriot Village to take class notes to a friend.

Medders said police have not identified a motive for the attack.

Police posted Timely Notification Bulletins throughout campus April 25 in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, a federal law requiring disclosure of incidents that present a potential threat to the University community.

Tickets please

Statistics show fines go to campus improvement

By Karli Tedford
Staff Writer

University police issued 2,243 parking citations from September 2006 to September 2007, an average of 187 per month.

University officials said the accumulated fines, \$53,960 for the past aca-

mits save money in the long run. When students don't follow parking rules there's a chance they might receive some unwanted education with violation 101, parking in a reserved area, and violation 201, parking without a permit.

Parking without a permit costs \$25, whereas a valid parking permit costs only \$30. Other common violations include parking in a reserved area, \$15, parking in a fire lane, \$50, and parking in a disabled space without an authorized permit, \$100.

Parking Tickets

By the numbers:

\$25 – Parking without a permit.

2,243 – Number of parking tickets written from Sept. 2006 to Sept. 2007.

ated fines, \$55,900 for the past academic year, typically go to campus improvements.

Mary Barr, University director of compliance, said that the fines and fees collected from citations are placed in an "institutional fund."

Barr said the funds contributed to re-sealing and striping parking lot 9 in front of the Business Building and the construction of the new parking lot between Robert R. Muntz library and the baseball and softball complex.

Those numbers might not surprise members of the University community — parking is often cited as being a problem on campus.

But Cindy Sherman, senior education lecturer and chairwoman of the Parking and Citation Appeals Panel, said people must either follow the rules or pay the fines.

University students, faculty and staff must abide by parking rules and regulations enumerated in The UT Tyler Traffic Regulations & General Information pamphlet, which can be found online.

Sherman urged students to purchase parking permits. She said per-

authorized permit, \$100.

University guard Erica Towne said 101 and 102 are "the two most popular violations."

A grace period for permits does exist for parking without a permit, but only in the fall semester and only if the car is parked in a student lot. She said new permits are available to registered students as early as one month before the old ones expire.

"Greg Lassen, vice president for business affairs, has it set that until the 14th class day, if you're in student parking, we issue warnings," Towne said.

She said the rules also apply to faculty.

"We overlap sticker distribution to prevent [permits expiring]," Towne said.

She said she typically only issues tickets if she happens to notice a violation while doing something else, but said other guards prefer to patrol the lots.

Citations may be appealed within 10 business days from the date issued using the Traffic and Parking Citation

15 SEP. 2007

365 – Parking tickets

appealed in that time period.

79 – Number of appealed

tickets that were granted.

\$30 – Cost of a parking permit.

\$100 – Cost of a ticket

for parking in a disabled space.

Appeals form available at the campus police office or online.

The University police deliver appeals to the office of Sue Gossett, administrative assistant in the Office of Career

-See Page 4, **TICKETS**

SGA

SGA plans summer elections for vacant treasurer position

By Anthony Croff

Editor in Chief

The Student Government Association plans to conduct an unprecedented summer semester election to fill the treasurer position on the executive council, parliamentarian Sam Carrell said.

The spring elections in April yielded no qualified candidate. Rene Hernandez ran for the position, but accepted the parliamentarian seat instead.

Officials asked former senator David McAlpin to be treasurer, but SGA officials later realized he never served a full senate term, disqualifying him per SGA bylaws, Carrell said.

SGA bylaws require a full academic year as a senator to

run for executive council positions such as treasurer, he said.

Carrell said the reason behind the summer election is so the entire executive council can attend a training conference this summer and begin to plan campus events for the fall.

SGA plans to conduct elections 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the University Center on June 18 and in the Business Building on June 19.

Potential candidates can pick up applications from a drop box at UCX 208 and turn applications in to Carey O'Kelly in UC 111E, Carrell said.

Applicants must attend a June 4 candidates meeting, he said.

More than \$21,000 raised at relay to fund ACS cancer research effort

By Kyle G. Horst

Entertainment Editor

University students and the American Cancer Society partnered to sponsor the University's Relay for Life event on April 18 and 19.

The 2008 fundraiser, which took place at the Maytee Fisch Convocation Center, raised a total of \$21,142 for cancer research and boasted 220 registered participants.

Student organization sought sponsors to fund racers, in turn raising funds for the American Cancer Society. About 300 registered and unregistered people attended, according to Jordan Berry, the University's Relay for Life Web chairman.

"At first we were kind of bummed that we didn't reach our fundraising goal of \$25,000, but with the state of the economy, we're very

happy with not reaching our goal," the University's Relay for Life President Sarah Shelton said. "It's \$21,000 that the American Cancer Society didn't have before."

Sophomore David Kelly raised the most with \$2,430, according to Relay for Life's Web site.

"I will be walking in honor of Alice Bowen, John G. Farrell, and Robert Dodds, as well as in honor of many other family members and friends who are fighting this disease," Kelly said.

Kelly participated as part of the University's cross country and track and field relay team. Altogether, the 14-member team raised \$4,719.

The top five registered students who brought in the most money for the American Cancer Society are Kelly,

-See Page 4, **RELAY**

Inside:



Student Regent

Talon staff talks to UT System student regent Randal Camarillo

Page 5



Study shows dogs are a de-stresser.

Page 7

Just for kicks

Challenge yourself to the crossword and laugh out loud at the comics.

Page 9



Arrick appointed *Talon* editor in chief; newspaper plans to go weekly fall 2008

The University's Student Media Advisory Board elected veteran *Patriot Talon* associate editor Allen Arrick, 22, to serve as editor in chief of the publication for the 2008-2009 academic year.

"I'm very pleased and excited to be the *Talon's* editor in chief next year," Arrick said. "It will be a great challenge but I think we're up to it."

The publication's staff members intend to double their workload, publishing weekly for the first time beginning in the fall.

Arrick, from Colleyville, won 11 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association awards working for the *Talon* in the past two years. His previous staff positions include staff writer, staff photographer, opinion editor, Pulse editor, and layout editor.

Arrick also interned as a reporter last summer for the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*.

"Arrick's skills in layout, photography and writing make him the ideal choice for editor in chief," Anthony Croff, current editor in chief, said. "Under his direction, he



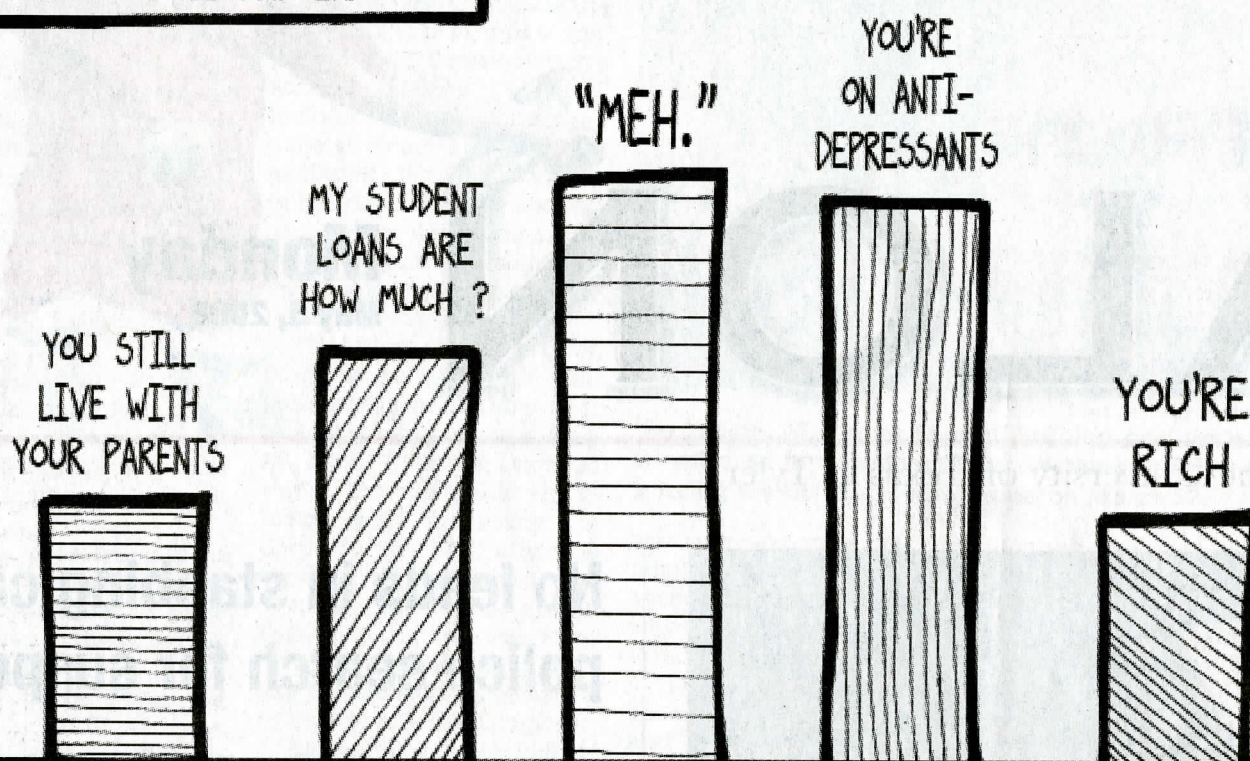
Arrick

will definitely raise the bar from a quality standpoint."

As editor in chief, Arrick said he hopes to improve on the publication's recent accolades.

"Being named best non-daily college newspaper of the year by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors was just a start to what's possible," he said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to report the news and keep the campus informed."

GALLUP REVEALS ITS NEW
HAPPINESS POLL AND INDEX...



Last words: Growing pains for a growing campus

Well, this is it, the final Last Laugh. After four years of upsetting people, this is it. I'm going to miss it.

I'm also going to miss my professors — well some of them — and the friends I've made. But at least I get to take the things I've learned with me. (And my student loan debt.)

I'll be leaving behind a university that represents the educational center of East Texas. A university that has great teachers and great students.

But I leave behind concerns that the recently lowered scholarship requirements — dropping Grade Point Average minimums from 3.0 to 2.0 — will harm the quality of student work.

I leave behind a university that is losing good teaching faculty to research requirements — at a time when it desperately needs them.

A school where the mismanagement of students leads to students dropping out or transferring due to a host of complaints; lack of advising, clumsy class scheduling and an obvious lack of serious involvement with their fellow students.

While I commend University administrators on the work they've done during my time in Tyler — like developing a much better working relationship with the *Patriot Talon* — I caution them as they attempt to guide this University from a regional, commuter school to the nationally recognized academic center it is rapidly becoming.

I urge them not to alienate their so-called "non-traditional" students. These are the people that helped grow the University in its early years as a four-year institution.

These are the people who now drive for miles to get to class, only to find they have nowhere to park because students who live on campus or across the street are using up all the spots.

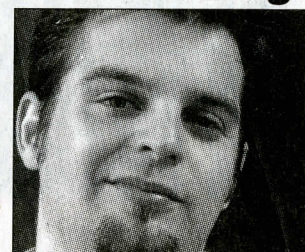
I urge them to question their hiring and tenure decisions. Research is important — especially considering the scant funding we've received from state legislators. But there is no excuse in throwing away quality teachers.

I urge them to remember that offices and bureaucracy exist to help make things efficient. They do not exist as ends in themselves.

I've said it before; universities exist to serve students. Period.

To paraphrase the Bard: Administrators, educators, students, lend me your ears; I come to bury grievances, not to make them.

the Last Laugh



Travis Webb

PRICE OF GAS TOPS CONCERNS OVER JOB AND HEALTH CARE

YOU LOOK
RELIEVED...WAS
THE DOCTOR'S
REPORT
GOOD?

JUST SO-SO!
BUT HE TOLD ME
WHERE I CAN GET
THE CHEAPEST GAS
IN TOWN!



Responsibility more than a 4.0 GPA

Pressures from exam week sits on my chest like an overweight hippopotamus. I find simple assignments, like reading, as hard as an Iron Man race would be for someone who rarely visits the gym.

For some reason, however, I've felt like this more than half the semester — easily making this the worst semester of my college career.

After talking to various friends and college graduates, the general consensus seems to be that a typical college student has one really bad semester.

I must be done then. Good.

But what made this semester more stressful than all the others?

Perhaps it is because a thick layer of childishness was scraped of my eyes, and I saw for the first time what it means to be a great student.

As a side note, following the revelation I did look in the proverbial mirror and saw myself somewhat lacking. It has been a race to catch up ever since.

After three years of college, watching my fellow classmates response to their education, I discovered that good students do not always

make A's.

A good student has consistent study habits so that they are never forced to "study for the exam."

They understand the material thoroughly enough so they possess a real working knowledge of the subject.

To look at the big picture, education problems don't rest in the absence or presence of a student's genius but in how they discipline their characteristics.

Many of us are lazy, including the smart people.

People love to brag about how long it took to write a paper. They think it makes a great story to say, "Man, I started my research paper at three this morning. I need some coffee."

Their classmates just respond jovially, "you slacker."

Such dialogue is part of a very odd academic culture that is anti-education.

Anti-education culture in schools across the United States turns our colleges into something more akin to trade schools than facilities that encourage progressive thought and reform.

It is my impression that the "cool kids" in the culture

are the people who have the intelligence but either pretend to or simply don't care.

The student that does not give his or her friend a gentle yet serious reprimand for slackerly behavior is to be blamed for the decline in education as well.

The students who are truly genius, who never study but always seem to know everything, have the gravest responsibility to their community. They must forge ahead, discover, record and invent in order to lend a hand to the next generation.

Please, if you have been blessed with that level of intelligence, spend it wisely. Americans waste enough of their resources.

After all, many bad students are extremely smart and make great grades without doing any work at all. Usually, they forget what they studied a week after later.

For the most part, I am thoroughly disappointed in myself for being irresponsible in another way.

They say "pride [that] cometh before the fall." Well, it certainly was my pride that led to my fall, or at least the absurd level of scholastic

the Roots



Jenny Simmons

trauma.

Teachers, friends and family warned me not take too many classes. Like the little child that thinks she can climb a tall pine without getting stuck, I didn't listen. I got stuck and ended up needing to drop a class.

After looking around and not just in, I've realized I cannot take on as heavy a class load as many students.

It seems like a no-brainer, but I've also learned to listen to good advice.

I know my limits now, and I've a clearer, tangible view of what it means to be a great student.

May I be held responsible if I do not take greater care of my studies for it is my duty to help the next generation grow and reach for the stars.

Graduating editor at a loss for words

It's been a glorious and tedious year at the *Patriot Talon*.

Sure, winning the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors best non-daily collegiate paper of the year is a high honor, but, as editor in chief, the real satisfaction comes from seeing a paper in students' hands or getting a pat on the back from a faculty member.

It makes staying up here until midnight on Sundays — in retrospect — gratifying.

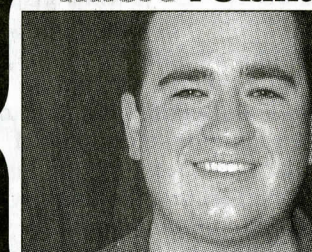
This being the last column of my college career, I'd like to thank the entire *Talon* staff.

I'm especially thankful to *Talon* adviser and journalism teacher Vanessa Curry. She defies the old adage, "Those who can do; those who can't, teach," by bringing her previous career experience to the classroom each and every time.

She taught me more than any Ph.D. ever could.

I can only attribute our success this year to having

where I Stand



Anthony Croff

the right people in the right place at the right time, and I hope the *Talon* staff continues to improve. I want to come back to campus years from now and be proud of what the paper will become.

As the University grows, so will this paper. The staff intends to venture into uncharted waters in the fall as a weekly, a prospect that is both exciting and stressful.

In reflecting on the past year, I wish I could provide some sort of insight I gained from my editorship, but I'm at a loss for words.

I'm just proud to have been a part of this publication and its history.

PATRIOT TALON STAFF

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Anthony Croff

Associate Editors:

News - Travis Webb

Pulse - Allen Arrick

Opinion - Jenny Simmons

Sports - Jeremy Cotham

Entertainment - Kyle G. Horst

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Business coordinator - Adrienne Graham

Adviser - Vanessa Curry

General Statement: This is a student publication and the opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the administration, faculty, staff, alumni or student body of the University.

Letter Policy: All contributions in good taste will be edited for grammar, spelling, length (300 words maximum), libel, profanity and personal attacks. All letters must contain the author's name, address, telephone number, academic classification and home town.

Mission Statement: The *Patriot Talon* is designed to inform, entertain, educate and heighten awareness of students, faculty and administrators at the University of Texas at Tyler. Staff members will be responsible journalists by maintaining high ethical standards with fairness, accuracy and balance.

The *Patriot Talon* encourages and provides an avenue for free flow of student expressions and opinions. The newspaper will serve as a learning tool to help students gain experience in all aspects of the print media.

May 5, 2008

Never forget

Pyle's influence goes only as far as journalists take it

By Travis Webb

Associate Editor

When the American military returned Okinawa to Japanese control, the Ernie Pyle Memorial, commemorating the life of the beloved World War II correspondent, was one of only three American monuments allowed to remain standing.

It's a lovely tribute, but on April 18, National Columnists Day - a holiday created to honor Pyle and those like him - it serves as a sad reminder of the fall of journalism.

Lewinsky-gate, Reverend Wright, the Associated Press' riveting Paris Hilton coverage - the list goes on and on. Today's gotcha' journalists don't get it.

On March 23 CNN reported the deaths of U.S. soldiers in Iraq; deaths that pushed the body count to more than 4,000.

Not one soldier was interviewed. There were quotes from military personnel, spokesmen, generals and the like. But no one stopped to ask a grunt, leather-neck or enlisted man what he thought.

Pyle lived off rations - he dug trenches with troops and dove for cover right beside the soldiers he wrote about. Pyle lived and died in the soldier's world and they, in turn, lived, loved and fought amid the words in his stories.

In contrast, today's flat, macro-coverage merely skims the surface. We get details, names, places and death tolls. But no faces. No hopes, or dreams, no tears.

Many national news media have apologized for their coverage in the days leading up to the Iraq war, and one day they may apologize for what they produced since.

With today's coverage, there are no tragedies - only tallies.

Oh, Pyle's spirit lives on in a few journalists.

TIME Magazine correspondent Michael Wiesskopf lost his right hand when he grabbed and threw a grenade that had been tossed into a personnel carrier he and a half-dozen troops were riding in.

His book, "Blood Brothers," details the personal struggles of soldiers he met in the amputee ward. And there are others who still report on people - not just events. After all, it's people who make news.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of today's "embedded" journalists don't know the meaning of the word.

“

With today's coverage, there are no tragedies - only tallies.”

CELEBRATING NATIONAL COLUMNISTS DAY



Ernie Pyle action figure by Hasbro®

Pyle's pen:

Technology an improved means to unimproved end

By Anthony Croff

Editor in Chief

News editor Travis Webb yelled at me from across the newsroom, "Is your Internet working?" making me realize just how much the news business changed in the last century.

The fact is a downed Web server never stopped Ernie Pyle from doing his job.

Pyle's career represented the best of feet-to-the-ground journalism, especially in the realm of first-person columns.

April 18 is National Columnists Day, designed to recognize opinion journalists, but more importantly to celebrate Pyle's career. He was a household name who, after traveling to report on little-known American locales, became the country's most renowned World War II reporter.

Journalists today live the easy life compared to Pyle, a road warrior who wrote stories on paper - yes, paper - before his wife typed them. He wrote 700 word columns nearly every day, mailing them to Scripps Howard News Service first class. His columns ran in about two dozen major American papers.

It must have been a wonderful life of adventure traveling on the road, but I'm sure it became a grind after seven long years writing six columns a week, 24 a month, 288 a year.

Before I learned about Pyle, I thought of columnists as sitting at a computer, sipping coffee in pajamas while drawing a hefty paycheck from their syndication deal - all for an average of one column a week.

My view of today's columnists formed when New York Times columnist Randy Cohen visited Tyler Junior College a few years ago. Cohen writes "The Ethicist," a column in which he responds to letters regarding ethical decision-making.

"It's a pretty easy job," he said. "Not a lot of heavy lifting."

Pyle relied on the people to tell the story, letting their actions convince, if there was any convincing to be done.

Perhaps it's the nature of the industry that's forced journalists "inside the box." News outlets want to make the best stories they can using as little money as possible, which breeds "fluff" pieces and rewritten press releases.

Tight budgets mean newspapers simply can't afford to send reporters to the far-off places Pyle went to discover the true essence of America.

In these days of high technology, which disconnects us rather than unifies, our generation needs someone who can bind us together and save the newspaper medium.

We need another Ernie Pyle.



ERNIE PYLE:

1900-1945

Pyle changed the way journalists reported news; his style lives as we celebrate National Columnists Day on April 18

By Matt Rivers

Contributing Writer

National Columnists Day celebrates journalists worldwide, but this special day would not exist without the life and death of Ernie Pyle — a man who took writing to a new level.

Born in 1900 in Indiana, Pyle's thirst for adventure led him to join the United States Navy at the age of 18 just before the end of World War I.

Back home he attended Indiana University where he wrote for the student newspaper, but accepted a professional news writing job without graduating.

Pyle joined the *Washington Daily News* as a staff writer, and in 1926 he moved on to become a substitute columnist for Scripps Howard News Service.

Experiencing great success, he became a full-time columnist and he traveled across America during the Great Depression, writing memorable columns about the people he met.

Perhaps Pyle is best known for his coverage of World War II, when he redefined the role of a true journalist.

Pyle did not just report on what he was covering, he lived it.

He followed the Allied soldiers, conversed with them, lived like them, and discovered what it was truly like to fight in a war. He shared a viewpoint Americans had never seen before.

His days in the company of American servicemen and his reflections of the common soldier earned Pyle the Pulitzer Prize in 1944.

Pyle's death is a testament to how involved in his coverage he became. On April 18, 1945, he died while taking cover in a ditch on the Pacific island of Ie Shima. His death symbolized his sacrifice in the name of true journalism, going beyond the call of duty to tell the story.

Pyle brought a new level of understanding to American readers of life from different perspectives, from cross-country road trips to the battlefields of the Pacific.

National Columnists Day not only brings attention to journalism's great columnists, but it honors the life of a truly brave and revolutionary writer.

Parking

from page 1

Services.

Gossett said she enters the information into the database and collects the appeals until she has about 20 or 30. Then the appeals panel meets.

The appeals panel, comprised of three staff or faculty members and three anonymous students, reviews and decides all submitted appeals each session. The students remain anonymous to avoid bias in decision making and protect them from reprisals.

From September 2006 to September 2007, the panel ruled on 365 appeals, meaning only 16 percent of University motorists that received a citation submitted an appeal.

Overall, the panel granted only 22 percent, or 79 appeals.

Sherman said the panel strictly follows the guidelines when considering an appeal.

"A lot of people have a story, but the bottom line is [the rulebook]," she said.

Sherman said the most common reason for submitting an appeal is that the appellant did not have a permit or didn't know one was required.

The University parking and safety regulations state. "No vehicle may be operated or parked upon the campus unless it bears a properly displayed current registration permit except vehicles operated by individuals in an appropriate visitor status."

The only typical exception, she said, is for a citation issued for parking without a permit during the first week of school.

"We usually let that go," Sherman said.

Overall, 60 percent of appellants received citations for parking without a permit and the panel granted only 4 percent of those appeals.

Relay

from page 1

Cameron Leger, Josh Skalka, Heather McBride, and Amber Baron, totalling \$3905.

ENTERTAINMENT

Although athletic teams, student organizations, and Greek life sponsored various activities, a large portion of the entertainment came from bands.

Westwood Stiles, a band comprised of B.J. Rambo on electric guitar, Mason Rivers on bass, and Matt Rivers on drums, said Relay for Life was their first real show.

In honor of their first full show, they debuted a new song entitled "Sweet 16."

The band focused more on performing, in hopes that more people would come out to support their cause.

"We mainly just donated some pocket change," Rivers said.

The band was not just performing for entertainment purposes though; a personal string ran through the heart of their performance.

"My grandfather was just diag-

nosed with leukemia, this is a really good cause," Rivers said.

"We're planning on taking a few victory laps after our show to celebrate our success tonight and support Mason's grandfather," Matt Rivers said.

GREEK LIFE

The women of Gamma Phi Beta sorority also came out to raise money for the American Cancer Society along with Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Delta Gamma, Alpha Chi Omega, and Pi Kappa Phi.

All Gamma Phi members were required to participate in the walk, and true to their word, the sorority kept at least three members walking at all times. The men of SAE complimented Gamma Phi on their commitment to the walk.

Gamma Phi raised \$267.

For more information on Relay for Life, visit www.relayforlife.org. Or for more information on Westwood Stiles visit www.myspace.com/westwood-stiles.

DUNKING BOOTH



Greg Lassen, vice president for business affairs, gets dunked in the dunking booth April 25 as a part of Teacher Appreciation Week. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Humane Society.

Staff photo by Jacob Reich

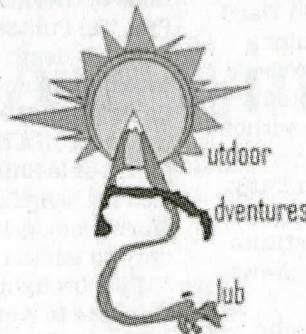
Photo Contest Results!

Outdoor Adventures Club

Winning photo:



Photo submitted by:
Emily Sanderson
Junior, Journalism major



Check out Outdoor Adventures at UT Tyler on Facebook.com to see all other contest entries, & keep up to date on events!

OAC events you missed out on...

- Tyler State Park Camping Trips
- Ouachita/Buffalo River Camping Trips
- Campus Mtn. Bike Race
- Rock Climbing Trips
- Photo Contest

E-mail OAC@patriots.uttyler.edu to join the club!



Student Regent Randal Camarillo

Randal Matthew Camarillo serves as the student regent to the University of Texas System Board of Regents, the policy-making body which governs all University of Texas institutions. His term as a regent ends May 31.

Camarillo visited the University in March but left early due to weather concerns.

Although he departed prior to a student forum, he did answer the *Patriot Tator's* questions via E-mail.

We've published his responses to give students insight regarding how the regents react to the broad range of concerns they must handle from each institution.



Camarillo

Q: As you approach the end of your term this month, do you feel like you accomplished everything you wanted to as a regent?

A: I'm very grateful to have served as the UT System student regent and to have participated in every aspect of the Board of Regents' meetings.

Q: Often, the System's Board of Regents is defined as a nine-member board. However, your position makes 10. How much influence do you have as the student regent?

A: The way I see it, the student regent provides the voting members of the board the most direct link to the student perspective on any issue - and it's a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. I feel I have a strong duty to accurately amplify the collective concerns of students across all our campuses.

Q: News about the UT System in the past six months has focused primarily on tuition hikes, which were met with heavy opposition from students at UT Austin. How do you respond to students who protested the initial planned tuition raises?

A: No one likes tuition increases, but the fact is as state support to our colleges dwindles, we have an obligation to not only meet our institutional needs but continue to enhance the educational experience for our students. Higher education is extremely competitive, and we also have a duty to keep our campuses competitive and attractive as they relate to other peer institutions. I should note that the additional revenues directly benefit the students. UT institutions will use the additional tuition revenues to enhance academic programs and student services, such as hiring additional faculty and advisers, reducing class sizes, and repairing and renovating campus buildings.

Q: How much power does the Board of Regents have over the UT System institutions?

A: The Board of Regents is the governing body for the UT System and as such is responsible for setting policy. The Board, as you may know, also sets tuition at each institution; selects campus presidents; approves operating budgets, degree programs and major construction projects, among other things.

Q: How were you selected to be the student regent, and what was the main thing you hoped to accomplish in the position?

A: Each institution is charged with nominating a potential student regent, then the governor selects a finalist for the post. My goal was to provide a student perspective to the other Board members. I have also worked closely with the UT System's offices of Academic Affairs and Health Affairs on the topic of student health insurance.

Q: How do you respond to administrators and student leaders like SGA president Austin O'Kelly who said our campus is suffering and will continue to suffer from a lack of funding due to the regents' \$150 per semester increase tuition cap? Was a system-wide cap the right thing to do?

A: Striking a sensible balance in tuition is no easy task and takes careful thought. Clearly, each campus in our system has needs, and even as we strive to improve the quality of education, we must always remain sensitive to the financial impact increases have on students, their parents - or even other parties who may be covering college costs. That said, I believe the cap was a reasonable approach because it allows institutions to address some of their most pressing needs, such as reducing student-professor ratios, while keeping tuition costs moderate.

Q: Since tuition deregulation by the state several years ago, do you feel like the Board approaches tuition policies with too much trepidation - that the board might be fearful of getting their right to set tuition rates taken away?

A: I believe the board remains focused on its responsibility to enhance excellence on our campuses and keep our institutions competitive and affordable more than anything else. In the initial years after tuition flexibility, increases were more pronounced because institutions had to make up for years of stagnant funding. But since that time, increases have actually moderated. You know, it's interesting to note that the average annual tuition increase at UT Austin was actually greater in the five years prior to tuition flexibility than it was in the five years since.

Q: Statistics show a decline in state funding to institutions in order to keep the burden off of taxpayers. Our VP of business affairs, Gregg Lassen, said in a story earlier this year that we are slowly moving from "state supported, to state assisted, to state located." Do you agree with that statement, and, if so, what do you think is the answer?

A: Clearly, state support relative to the UT System's overall budget today isn't what it used to be a decade ago. And the gap in state support has become dramatically evident when you compare it with what it used to be 25 years ago. That's not to point fingers at state government, for it too must struggle with a delicate balancing act when it comes to the state budget. I don't believe there is any quick solution to addressing all of higher education's needs while minimizing the burden on taxpayers at the same time, but I can say that there is in place a very deliberative process that allows regents and lawmakers to carefully take into consideration all the parties that will be affected before they make their decisions.

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{NewsBriefs

Dr. Jeffrey Emge, music department chairman, composed a march in memory of a local band leader.

The march honors Richard Highfill, former University music instructor and Tyler Independent School District Robert E. Lee High School band director, who died December 2007 after a lengthy illness.

The University's Tyler Community Band will premiere the "King Richard March" May 6 during a concert at the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center.

"Several former students suggested the title 'King Richard' since that was his nickname at Robert E. Lee High School. His favorite composer was John Phillip Sousa so I wrote the march in the style of Sousa," Emge said.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, begins at 7:30 p.m.

Qualifying rounds for The University of Texas at Tyler Suddenlink Patriot Million Dollar Hole-in-One Contest will take place May 10 - 17 at contest sites in Tyler and Longview.

The contests offer amateur golfers age 18 and older the opportunity to compete, at \$1 per shot, in preliminary daily rounds.

The Tyler contest location is off Old Bullard Road behind the Holiday Inn Select. The Longview contest takes place at the UT Tyler Longview University Center.

Daily qualifiers will be players who hit closest to the hole, as well as those who hit a hole-in-one, during the qualifying rounds.

The finals are slated for 1:30 p.m. May 18 at The Cascades. Three holes are set up on the green during the finals, and each hole corresponds to one of three prizes.

Prizes are a 2008 Mustang GT Coupe sponsored by Tyler Ford, a 2008 Harley-Davidson FXSTC sponsored by Lone Star Harley-Davidson Buell or \$1 million.

Participants who purchase 25 or more tickets at the contest site will be entered into a drawing at the finals for a 32-inch flat panel high definition television. Winner must be present at the finals to win.

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Live to Learn

Lynn University students send stress to the dogs

By Scott Travis

South Florida Sun-Sentinel
(MCT)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - Students at Lynn University say they've been working like dogs to prepare for final exams. So who better to relieve some of that stress than a couple of four-legged friends?

Kelly and Charlie, two yellow lab and golden retriever-mixed canines, are therapy dogs who normally work with the sick and elderly at Boca Raton, Fla., Community Hospital, as well as special needs children at Royal Palm Beach (Fla.) Elementary School. Counselors at Lynn thought they might also be good to help students deal with test anxiety.

So they let the dogs out Tuesday for a two-hour therapy event on the university lawn called "Paws and Relax."

"The end of the semester is typically a very stressful time," said Kirt McClellan, a



Shalene Schlenker, a Psychology major at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, gets a kiss from therapy dog brought to the campus to help students relieve stress.

MCT/Mark Randall

psychotherapist at Lynn. "Pet therapy has been recognized to help increase coping skills

and decrease stress."

A number of studies have touted the physical and psy-

chological benefits of animals, according to abstracts posted on the Web site of the Delta

Society, a nonprofit group that promotes the use of therapy animals.

Students at Lynn say the dogs do the trick.

"I was stressed out the entire day over finals, but the dogs came here, and I am totally stress free right now," said Avi Felberbaum, 19, of Livingston, N.J.

"When I'm around dogs, I don't have a care in the world," said Natalie Capiro, 20, of Boca Raton, who was stressed about an accounting exam coming up that day.

Kelly, 5, and Charlie, 4, belong to Tom DeCicco, owner of Boca Raton-based Therapy Dogs of South Florida. He's also training Harris, 2, a full golden lab for therapy. Training starts at 10 weeks old to get the dogs fully socialized and able to stay calm under any circumstance, DeCicco said.

"For the short-term, they break up the monotony and seem to have a calming effect," he said.

While this is Kelly and Charlie's first time working with college students, pet therapy is nothing new for Lynn University.

Last semester, the university brought in a petting zoo, complete with baby pigs, lemurs, chickens, ducks, goats, lambs and rabbits.

Therapy dogs have been used at other universities, including Albright College in Reading, Pa.; Indiana University in Bloomington; and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, according to published reports.

For Brittany Hutchinson, 20, of Venice, Fla., the visit by Kelly and Charlie turned into a reunion. She spent four weeks at Boca Raton Community Hospital last year for a ruptured appendix, and the two canines served as therapy pets for her.

"They were such a great help in getting me through that," she said. "It's nice to see them on a better occasion."

Northwestern withdraws offer of honorary degree for Obama preacher Wright

By Jodi S. Cohen

Chicago Tribune
(MCT)

CHICAGO - Northwestern University President Henry Bienen has rescinded the university's offer to bestow an honorary degree on pastor Rev. Jeremiah Wright Jr., whose fiery comments on race and America have caused trouble for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

In a letter to Wright, the senator's longtime pastor, Bienen wrote in March that he decided to withdraw the degree because the controversy about Wright could disrupt graduation ceremonies.

"In light of the controversy

of Northwestern's commencement would be affected by our conferring of this honorary degree," Bienen wrote.

It appears to be the first time Northwestern has rescinded an honorary degree offer, although the school keeps no such records, said spokesman Alan Cabbage.

Wright was not scheduled to speak at the ceremony, and Cabbage declined to name the other intended honorary degree recipients.

Wright was quoted in a Texas newspaper this week as saying the offer was rescinded because Bienen told him he "wasn't patriotic enough." Northwestern denied that portrayal in a statement Thursday, saying that

While Wright won't be honored at June's commencement ceremonies with an honorary doctorate of sacred theology, controversial talk show host Jerry Springer is scheduled to address students graduating from the Law School. Springer, whose show often features guests who physically fight with each other and tear off their clothes, is not slated to get an honorary degree.

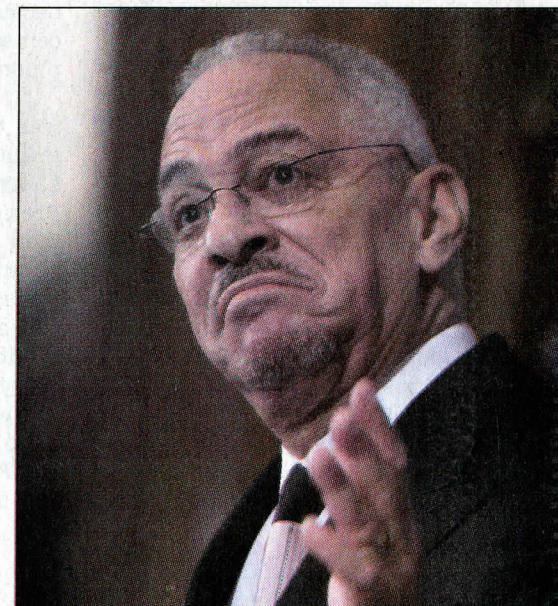
"This is outrageous," said Rev. Linda Thomas, a professor at the Lutheran School of Theology and a member of Wright's congregation at Trinity United Church of Christ on Chicago's South Side. "The man who has the audacity to use the Bible to critique the government, the status quo, is

allowed to speak."

Wright has eight honorary degrees from other colleges and universities, according to Trinity's Web site. He received an honorary degree from Colgate University in 1998 and one from Valparaiso University in 2002, according to university officials.

The Valparaiso commencement program cited Wright's accomplishments in expanding Trinity's membership and his church's work on behalf of senior citizens and of low-income and unemployed families needing child care.

Wright has bachelor's and master's degrees from Howard University, another master's degree from the University of



"In light of the controversy surrounding statements made by you that have recently been publicized, the celebratory character

denied and portrayed in a statement Thursday, saying that Bienen "never characterized Wright's views or made a judgment about them."

to use the Bible to critique the government, the status quo, is being put on the sidelines, and someone whose show is drama, supports violence, is being

University, another master's degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School and a doctorate from United Theological Seminary.

MCT/Chuck Kennedy

Wright

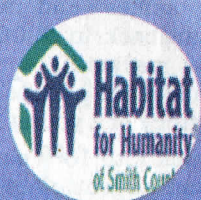
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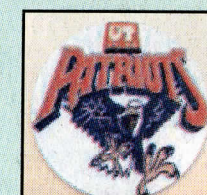
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Grand Theft Auto IV: Game raises moral concerns

By Eric Benderoff

Chicago Tribune (MCT)

CHICAGO - From the rocket-propelled grenade that shoots down a police helicopter to the punch in the face delivered to a former friend, the depictions of realistic violence in the newest "Grand Theft Auto" videogame are raising fresh concerns.

And gamers couldn't wait to play.

The release of "Grand Theft Auto IV" was such a big deal that, as with the Harry Potter books, retailers held midnight release parties Monday to mark the title's arrival.

The controversy surrounding the phenomenally successful game series struck early. Facing renewed complaints that the game's violence is inappropriate, the Chicago Transit Authority late last week removed advertisements promoting the release from its buses and trains.

The tussle over "Grand Theft Auto" is partly a debate over its value and partly a discussion about how to keep children away from a title that everyone agrees contains material they should not see.

"People think videogames equal kids, and that if it's just a game, it should be fine," said Robin Burke, a game-development professor at DePaul University. "But the idea that a game is made for a mature audience, we (as a society) don't have our arms around that yet."

Indeed, even though games have clear ratings, like movies, they often are ignored by parents and sometimes by retailers.

A study last year from MediaWise and Harris Interactive found that 72 percent of parents don't understand game ratings.

What's more, 37 percent of parents said they rarely used those ratings when buying a game.

Some critics want to ban stores from selling games like "Grand Theft Auto" to minors, though that approach was found unconstitutional. Others wonder what possible redeeming value there is for

anyone to play a game in which a joystick is used to simulate murder.

Jeff Smith, a 30-year-old information technology professional, said games like "Grand Theft Auto" are an adult form of entertainment, an elaborate, increasingly sophisticated, action-packed fantasy world.

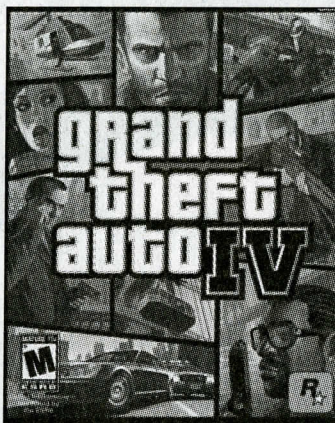
"As gamers get older, into their 30s and 40s, they want more adult games," he said. "Gaming is a good way to blow off steam. It's almost a type of voyeurism, a peek into the lives you see in film. Mobster movies (like 'The Godfather') are big because it's a peek into that world."

"GTA' is like that, but it takes you an extra step," he said, noting that gamers have "unbelievable" control over what they can do. "In real life, if you had a bad day trying to catch a cab, there's nothing you can do. But when you come home, you can punch a ('GTA') taxi driver in the face and take his fare money."

Rockstar Games, the maker of "Grand Theft Auto," offers the same mobster movie comparisons, arguing that they are creating a fictional universe for adults such as those seen in "GoodFellas" or "The Sopranos." But because the venue is a videogame, perceived by some as a child's toy, they get pilloried.

"If this was a movie or TV show and was the best in its field, you'd give it loads of awards and put those awards shows on television," Rockstar Vice President Dan Houser said in an interview published by *Variety*. "What is it about the medium you don't like? Because maybe we should challenge those ideas. To us, it's a way of experimenting with non-linear interactive story lines."

Here's the story line of "Grand Theft Auto IV," according to an early review by the *Times of London* online: Gamers play the role of Niko Bellic, an Eastern



European immigrant lured to Liberty City (New York in disguise), who must "climb the greasy pole of the underworld." Players will face choices, experience seaminess and sow mayhem with 15 different weapons, from a simple brick to a rocket launcher.

"Firing a rocket at a car and seeing the smoke trail with a spectacular explosion is very cool," Imran Sarwar, a developer with Rockstar Games, told

GameSpot.com. "And when a (police) chopper has you cornered, seeing the rotors come off, the tail snap off and the (chopper) fall to the ground in a massive explosion is pretty cool too. ... It's all really cinematic."

The technical prowess is partly why DePaul's Burke requires his students play the "Grand Theft Auto" games for his Introduction to Game Design course.

"Grand Theft Auto 3' had a huge impact on what could be done, technically, with videogames," he said. But because the game was filled with violence, including killing cops, those technical aspects that appeal to developers and gamers have been overlooked.

Burke, who won't allow his 12-year-old son to play, says he understands the controversy. With a game like "Halo," another violent and popular title, the enemies are space aliens.

"When people who are not players look at a screen shot of 'Halo,' they see immediately that it's a fantasy," he said. "Then they look at a screen shot of 'Grand Theft Auto' and see a snapshot of the violence we have on our streets. That can bother people."

The debate about videogame violence reappears with each new, more realistic generation of games.

"Grand Theft Auto IV" is rated M, intended for mature audiences over 17, because of blood, intense violence, partial nudity, strong language and use of drugs and alcohol.

SPRING CONCERT



Staff photos by Kyle G. Horst

Above: Patriot singer and chorale member Dannea Guess performs "Down to the River to Pray" during their concert May 1.

Below: The Patriot Singers performed a selection of songs at their spring concert accompanied by the chorale and wind ensemble. Songs ranged from traditional hymns to jazz pieces.



Talon staff picks the best in entertainment for 2007-2008

The *Patriot* Talon staff reminisced about their favorite pieces of the 2007-2008 academic year. Here they are:

Anthony Croff
Editor in Chief

ALBUM

5th Gear

Brad Paisley

Brad Paisley never ceases to amaze me by always topping his last project. He did it again last year with this album, presenting the best country music produced to date - hands down. From songwriting to catchy melodies to variety of material, Paisley always delivers.

BOOK

"From Lance to Landis: Inside the American Doping Controversy at the Tour de France"
David Walsh

Author David Walsh uses accounts from riders whose careers crossed paths with Floyd Landis and Lance Armstrong to cast doubt on whether or not Armstrong raced "clean" during his seven Tour victories. Even for a hardcore Armstrong fan like me, the book presents solid circumstantial evidence that Armstrong's coaches administered drugs to him.



FILM

"Charlie Wilson's War"

I dreaded sifting through movies from this past year, cause there were none I particularly liked. But, I recently saw this film, and it's probably Tom Hanks' best starring role since "Forrest Gump". The film presents background on a serious historical issue, a covert U.S. operation to aid Afghanistan's war against the Soviets.

Philip Seymour Hoffman's wisecracks throughout the film alone make the movie worth watching

Travis Webb
Associate Editor

ALBUM

In Rainbows
Radiohead

The seventh album by English alt-rockers, Radiohead's latest release is not only one of their best, it also marked a dramatic shift in

the way music is being marketed. The band released the album on their own, sans label, selling it online for whatever sort of donation fans believed appropriate.

Surprisingly, most paid close to market value.

BOOK

"Gentlemen of the Road: A Tale of Adventure."

Michael Chabon

Pulitzer prize winner Chabon departs from his usual heavy-handed literary intellectualism in this pulpy tale of two 10th century horse thieves turned revolutionaries. Harkening back to the glory days of swash-buckling high-adventure, the author revels in his own delightfully purple prose. And so should you.

FILM

"No Country For Old Men"

The latest film by brothers Joel and Ethan Coen, is a great thriller on its own. But it's also a wonderful tribute to two of the genres that helped defined American cinema: the crime thriller and the western.

Wrap that with an allegory on the human condition - an allegory which, for once in cinema, is neither over obvious nor excessively kitsch - and it's no wonder the brothers won their fourth Academy Award for this one

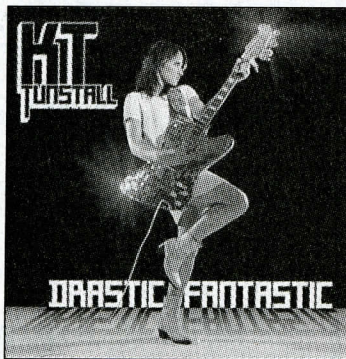
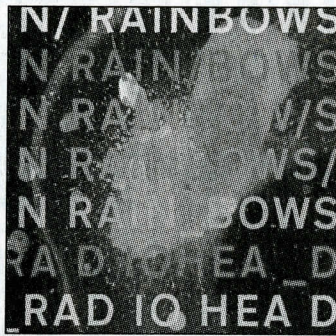
Paige Hayter
Staff Writer

ALBUM

Drastic Fantastic
KT Tunstall

KT Tunstall's sophomore album *Drastic Fantastic* was released Sept. 18. After her first two chart toppers, "Black Horse and a Cherry Tree" and "Suddenly I See," I was anxiously waiting to get my hands on her newest album via iTunes.

Tunstall's alternative rock sound paired with her wonderful Scottish accent make such a versatile sound that you want to dance around wildly while at the same time lounge on your couch with a



bag of popcorn while list

BOOK

"A Breath of Snow and Ashes"

Diana Gibalton

"A Breath of Snow and Ashes" is the latest book in the Diana Gibalton's *Outlander* fictional novel series and was originally released in hardback in 2006. This month they are mass marketing a new paperback edition, which is much cheaper.

Gibalton's story of a young English woman who travels back into 18th century Scotland to find love and adventure is a must to any woman's collection of fictional female heroism novels.

FILM

"Bender's Big Score"

Bender's Big Score was the movie I waited for in 2007 (other than the next installment of Harry Potter of course) and it paid off big time. The movie was as quick-paced and sidesplitting as the old Futurama's remain. It was the perfect end to the year to see a two-hour episode featuring all of my favorite characters from the year 3000 again.

Kyle G. Horst
Entertainment Editor

ALBUM

Funplex

The B-52's

With their first album of the 21st century, the "world's greatest party band" rocks out with their classic infusions of classic rock, punk, and dance.

An album for when party's collide, this suits any classic rock lover who wants to put a new twist on the band that produced "Love Shack." With a more modern rock edge that matured over the last decade, this album is sure to impress.

BOOK

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"

J.K. Rowling

My guilty pleasure. I was in line for the midnight release at six in the morning. When I got the novel, I was all over it like a fat kid with a cupcake.

It seems the Potter kids grew up along side me, and so did Rowling. In the seventh and last installment in the Potter legacy, Rowling steps up her use of rhetoric and ties bits and pieces of prior novels into her final, flagship story. Harry Potter is written for children, but can be enjoyed by even the toughest literary critic.

FILM

"Horton Hears a Who"

The childhood author Dr. Seuss's book "Horton Hears a Who" is now a full-length feature film starring a loveable elephant Horton

(voiced by Jim Carrey) and the Mayor of Whoville (voiced by Steve Carell).



Fully CGI animated, this flick is aimed at families and focuses around the phrase "a person is a person, no matter how small." This film should be fun for people of all ages, be it toddlers, college aged adults, or senior citizens.

Allen Arrick
Associate Editor

ALBUM

The Alchemy Index
Thrice

My favorite band of the past couple years released the ambitious *Alchemy Index*, which is actually four CDs with six songs each. The themes depart significantly from their "screamo" roots and delve into dramatic and thought-provoking melodies. Don't be surprised to see more mellow and relaxed albums from Thrice for the next few years.

BOOK

"Six Days of War"

Michael Oren

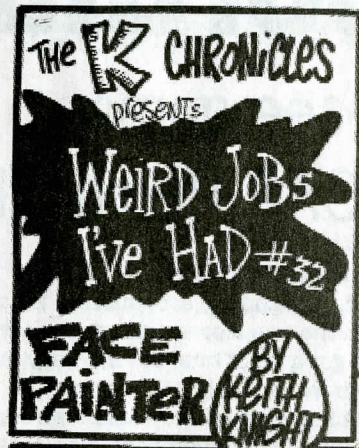
This non-fiction epic about the 1967 six-day war rivals anything Tom Clancy ever wrote. It's a real life account of the war between Israel and four Arab countries which shaped the modern Middle East.

Don't count this one out because of its historical accuracy. There's interesting storylines all over, from Israeli Army Chief Yitzhak Rabin's nicotine poisoning, to Arab nationalism turning into fundamentalism as a result of the war. If you enjoy a good war drama, don't miss it.

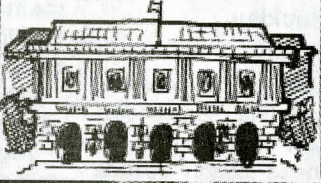
FILM

"American Gangster"

When I first heard about American Gangster I expected a "Departed" knockoff. Thankfully, Director Ridley Scott put together a movie wholly unlike "The Departed" while creating a biopic about New York's most notorious drug dealer, Frank Lucas. The movie is rife with originality and intrigue. It's worth checking out if you have three hours to spare on this flick.



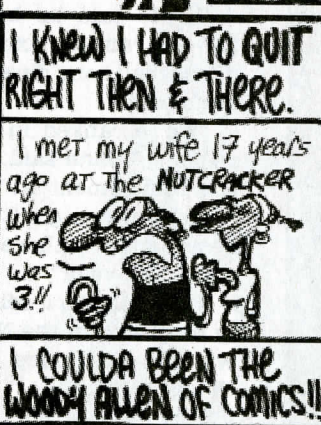
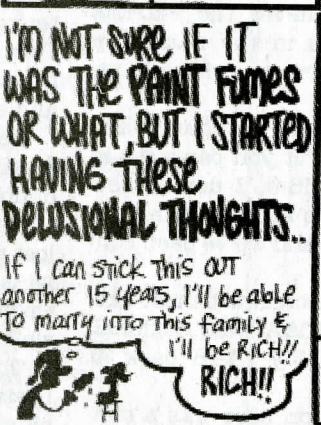
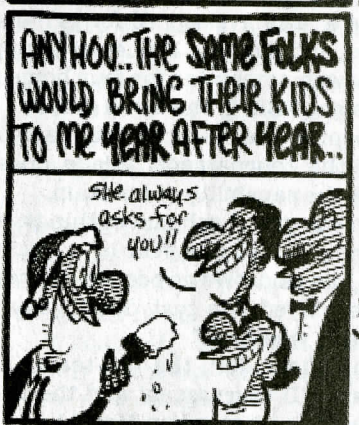
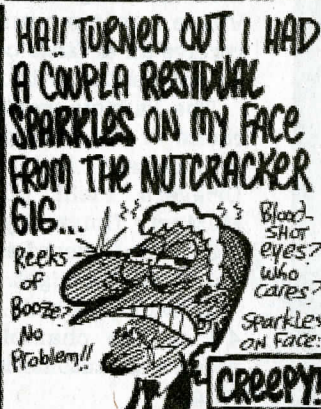
I HAD THIS FACE-PAINTING GIG OVER A FEW X-MAS HOLIDAYS WHEN I WAS LIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO...



I MADE \$25 AN HOUR PAINTING RICH KIDS WHO ATTENDED THE S.F. BALLET'S NUTCRACKER. SLATHER SLATHER



Illustration by Keith Knight, Los Angeles CA 90034



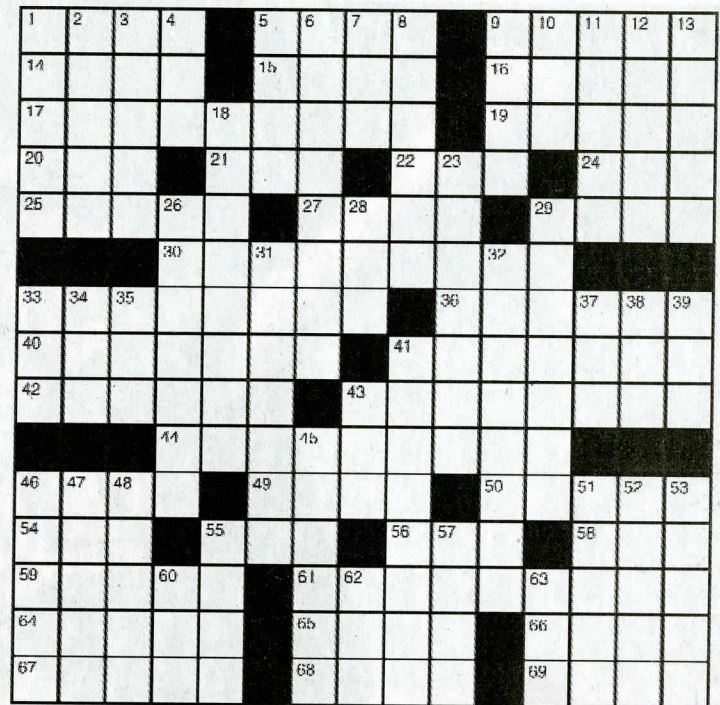
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Hinged tongue
- 5 Sketch artist
- 9 Church recesses
- 14 Burn balm
- 15 Ditto
- 16 Lifted, so to speak
- 17 Begins
- 19 Destiny
- 20 Turkey mister
- 21 Chow down
- 22 Long-eared beast
- 24 Sushi fish
- 25 Test, as ore
- 27 Very small
- 29 Boots it
- 30 Keanu Reeves movie
- 33 Stop by
- 36 Down the middle
- 40 Vine support
- 41 Cure-all
- 42 Late-night Conan
- 43 Abandoned
- 44 Reality avoiders
- 46 Cake finisher
- 49 "___ Brockovich"
- 50 Europe's "boot"
- 54 "Le coq", Rimsky-Korsakoff opera
- 55 Belief: suff.
- 56 Comic Conway
- 58 Sock's extremity
- 59 High society
- 61 Resolved
- 64 Prefix with linguistics
- 65 Part of speech
- 66 Opposed to
- 67 Garbage
- 68 Acquires
- 69 Loch for monsters

DOWN

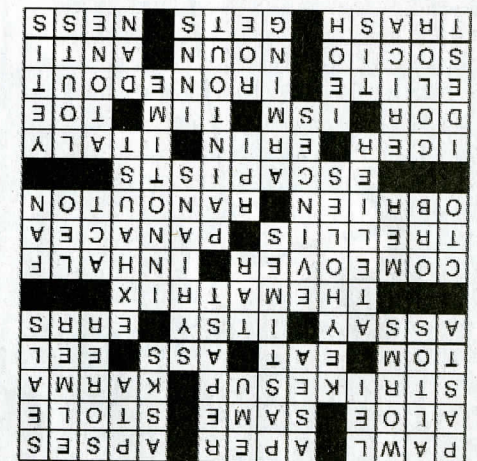
- 1 Ziti, e.g.
- 2 Some choristers
- 3 Basic bait
- 4 Floral ring
- 5 On the briny
- 6 Games people play
- 7 Ostrich relative
- 8 Meal
- 9 Requests
- 10 Educ. group
- 11 More tender
- 12 "___ Gantry"
- 13 Elite navy group
- 18 Eavesdroppers' openings
- 23 Assad's people
- 26 Artist's studio
- 28 Black gunk
- 29 Spend
- 31 Demonstrates
- 32 Lickety-split
- 33 Mus. piece
- 34 Sphere
- 35 Mal de ___
- 37 Part of a play
- 38 Composer Delibes
- 39 Wind machine
- 41 Color over
- 43 Upstate NY school
- 45 Buying weapons
- 46 That is: Lat.
- 47 Amber or umber



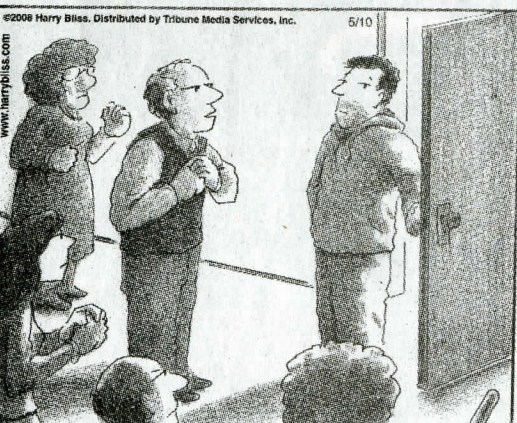
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5/10/08

Solutions



- 48 "All My Children" vixen
- 51 Observe Yom Kippur
- 52 Lummoxes
- 53 Abominable snowmen
- 55 Pei's first name
- 57 Roadside rests
- 60 "My country ___ of..."
- 62 Shad delicacy
- 63 Dolphin Marino



Horoscopes: 5.5.08

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services
(MCT)

Today's Birthday (05-05-08) You're the voice of reason this year. People seek your advice, which you provide quite eloquently. You're charming, wise and persuasive. Travel conditions are excellent, too. It's a great year for adventures.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging. **Aries (March 21-April 19)** - Today is a 6 - Great abundance can be yours if you play by the rules. Do the job you've taken on, even if it's tough. You can, and you'll earn a ton of respect, as well as a lot of cash.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 10 - You are so cute, you could charm the paint off the walls. Ask for what you want and you're apt to get it. You can have more than three wishes.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 5 - Restraint is still advised. By now you should be used to it. This is good. Self-discipline is required in this phase to achieve success. In other words, tough it out.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 9 - If you're judged by the friends you keep, you're doing very well. Your friends are solid, dependable, practical and loving. They respect and admire you. Good work.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 5 - Provide comfort to a partner whose dreams don't quite come true. Looks like there's still some basic groundwork that hasn't been done. Offer your assistance.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 10 - Projects launched now will succeed enormously. They won't turn out exactly as imagined, however. Team effort is required, so collect an enthusiastic group.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 5 - You'll have the patience now to get your finances into order. You'll be richly rewarded for your efforts. While you're at it, organize the household finances, too.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - It might be hard to find the right words, but that's not necessary. You and your partner know what you want to do, and it's time to take action. Make the commitment.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - There's plenty of work and the pay's pretty good. Take advantage of this situation. Provide good service, and lots of it. You will be generously rewarded.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 10 - Compromises you've been seeking finally fall into place. It's almost as if the two of you have never disagreed. Celebrate by going to a restaurant you both like.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 5 - Slow and easy does it. You can't make what you want happen as quickly as you'd like, under these conditions. You can make progress, however.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - You won't want to be bothered by any distractions. But friends call and loved ones need your attention. Don't worry, you can still complete the assignment.

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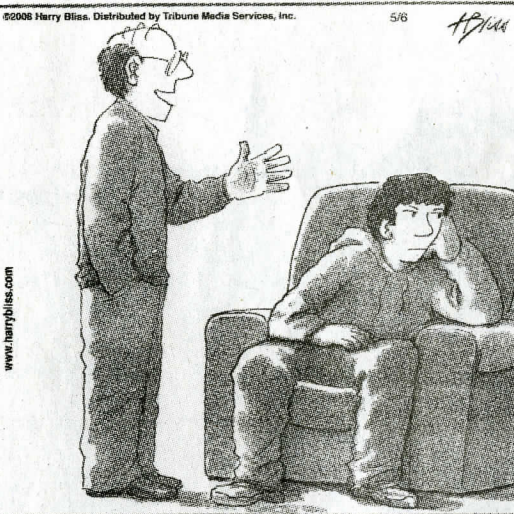
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"Well, to be honest, son, it's going to be more of a beatdown than an intervention."



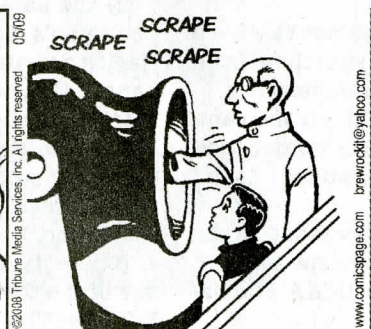
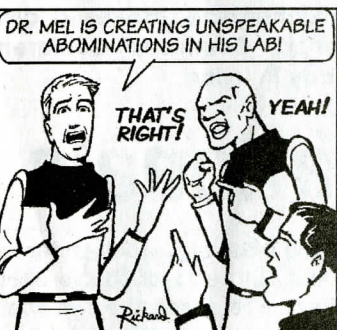
"We need less cowbell!"



"Don't think of it as being grounded. Think of it as suffering the consequences of your monumental stupidity."



"I love college."



Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Kid Shay



Patriots eliminated by Concordia

Patriots play wait-and-see game for at-large berth to NCAA Regionals

By Clint Buckley
Staff Writer

ABILENE - The University baseball team failed to win the American Southwest Conference tournament in their first try, but head coach James Vilade remains optimistic his team will receive an at-large berth in the national tournament later this month.

The Patriots went 1-2 in the second-round of the championship of the ASC tournament last weekend at Walt Driggers Field on the campus of McMurry University, bowing out with a 7-3 loss to Concordia-Texas in the semifinals Saturday night.

McMurry, which defeated Concordia 4-1 in the championship game, will receive an automatic bid to the tournament.

Vilade said he believes the Patriots (36-9), ranked sixth in the nation by d3baseball.com, deserve one of the 14 at-large bids.

"We're ranked in the top four in the region," Vilade said. "If you can't get in the tournament at 36-9, I don't know when you can go. It's about putting the best teams out there and we've been consistent all year."

The Patriots, if selected, will most likely be placed in the NCAA West Regional, which takes place May 14-18 back at Driggers Field.

Hitting with men on base was a con-

stant struggle in both losses for the Patriots, stranding a combined 26 runners in the two losses against Concordia.

"We got a lot of hits, but not very many of them were timely," Vilade said.

Pitching, one of the team's strengths going into the tournament also plagued the Patriots. Staff ace Blake Booher and Ryan Campbell allowed a combined 12 runs in 12 innings of work.

Brett Holland was one of the few bright spots for the Patriots, tossing his ninth complete game of the season in the Patriots' only win of the weekend - a 6-3 victory over Mississippi College on Saturday afternoon.

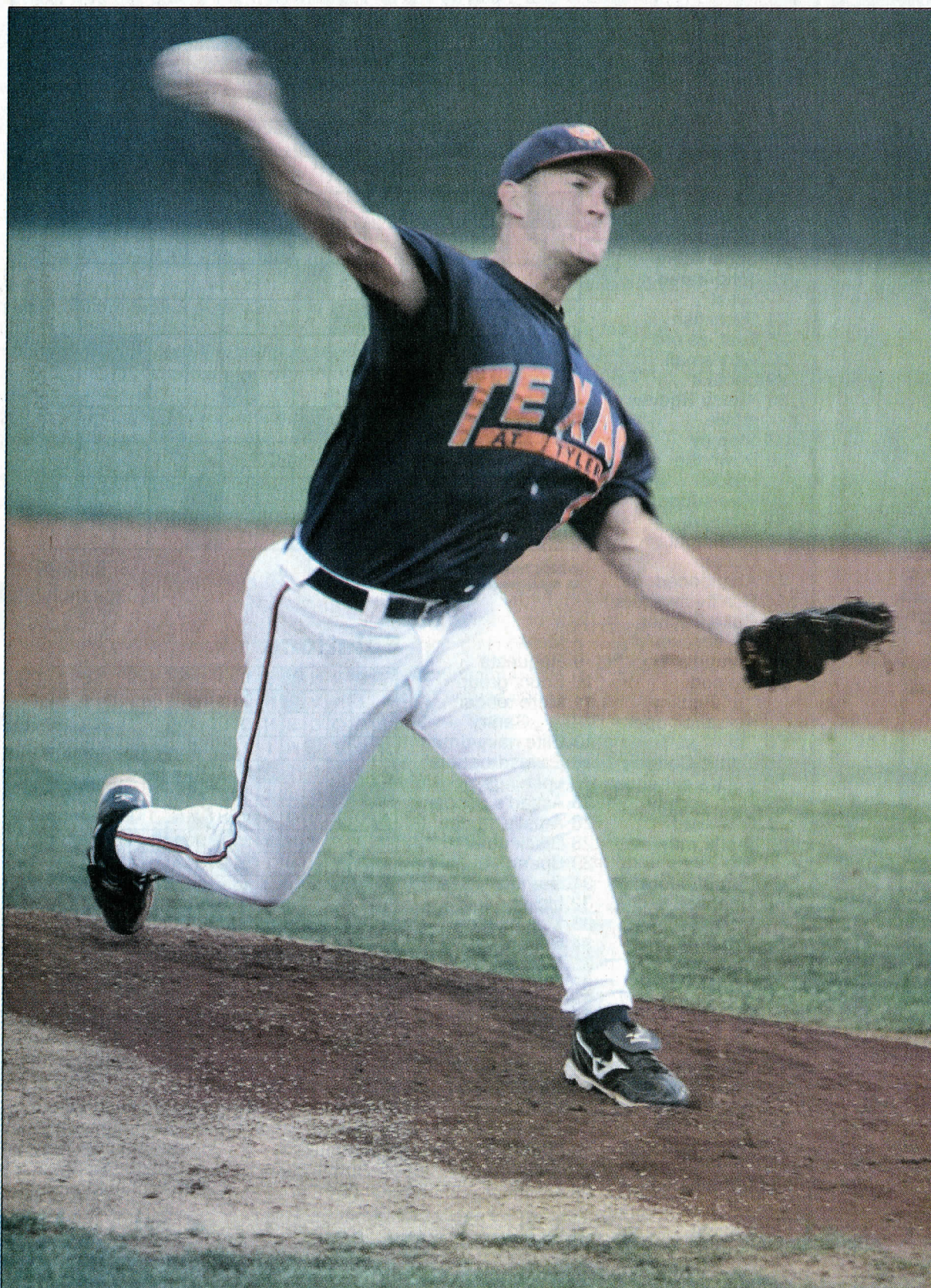
The junior right-hander struck out nine and allowed three runs and nine hits to improve to 11-0 on the season.

Senior Corey Farra was the team's leading hitter for the tournament, registering a .429 average (6-for-14). Joseph Towns and Andrew Damewood supplied the power, combining for four home runs and eight RBIs in the three games.

Despite the unexpected early exit from the tournament, Vilade does not doubt the capability of his team.

"In the grand scheme of things, we've lost nine games this year by a total of 18 runs," he said. "We've been in every game we've played. We just didn't play very well this weekend."

The field for the 54-team NCAA Division III tournament and the at-large bids will be released on May 11.



Staff photos by Michelle Morse

Top: Patriots junior Blake Booher pitches during the first round of the American Southwest Conference Championship on April 25 at Irwin Field. Right: Junior Kendall Fox throws to first to com-

top. Patriots' Blake Boone pitches during the first round of the American Southwest Conference Championship on April 25 at Irwin Field. Right: Junior Kendall Fox throws to first to complete the double play during the Patriots 2-0 series win over Hardin-Simmons.

Louisiana College ends Patriots' bid for first ASC Championship

By Jeremy Cotham
Sports Editor

IRVING - Fighting until the very end, the Patriots softball team (40-7) battled through seven tournament games in a span of 48 hours and in the end, they fell one win shy of their first conference championship.

After winning two elimination games on Saturday, the Patriots fell 2-1 in the championship game against division rival, Louisiana College, at the 10th annual American Southwest Conference Softball Tournament in Irving.

"I thought we did an outstanding job, especially battling back through and going down to the wire in the championship game and having the tying run on second in the final inning," said coach Mike Reed. "I am proud of them because they never gave up or quit. I think this tournament is a testament to how strong of a team we have."

To start off the day, the Patriots took on The University of Mary-Hardin Baylor in an elimination game to see who advanced to the championship round.

Going into the bottom of the seventh inning and down to their last chance, the Patriots were down 4-1.

Facing elimination, the Patriots ran off four runs, capped off by a Brittanni Hanna walk-off single that went under the legs of short-stop Katina Penter, bringing in Amanda Busby and Kate Lightfield to give the Patriots the thrilling 5-4 win.

With the win, the women advanced to the championship round to face Louisiana College. The Patriots needed to defeat the Lady Wildcats twice to win the ASC Championship.

They took care of business in the first game, as they won 4-1 thanks in part to stellar pitching from Loren Parks, who went all seven innings for her 10th win of the season,

giving up only one run on six hits.

Louisiana College got on the board first in the top of the fifth on a double by Jessica Thompson, scoring Allison Frye to put LC up 1-0.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Patriots broke through with four runs with Peters starting it off with an RBI single to tie the game. Richardson followed that with a two-RBI single to center field to give the Patriots the 3-1 lead. Kate Bell added one more insurance run on her single to left field.

In the winner-takes-all game for the ASC Championship, Lady Wildcats' Erica Harwell hit a line drive home run over the left field wall to build an early 2-0 lead.

To lead off the top of the third, the Patriots responded with a run as Courtney Carrizales hit her first home run of the year to cut the lead in half, 2-1.

In the top of the seventh, the Patriots used all the

remaining energy they had left but stranded a runner on second to end the game and give the Lady Wildcats their first title since 2005.

"I told our team that the hard work they have put in this season and in this tournament, we are hoping that our season is not over and that we can be selected as an at-large berth to the NCAA Regionals," Reed said. "We have done everything we can do up until now and we gave all we could give this weekend."

The future of the Patriots season is now in the hands of the NCAA as they await the announcement whether or not they receive an at-large berth to the NCAA National Softball Tournament.

As of press time, the at-large bids had not been released.

Starting Thursday, the University is playing host to one of the eight NCAA Softball regionals and the Patriots hope to be playing on their own field for the regionals.



Staff photo by Jacob Reich
Patriots right fielder, Megan Richardson, makes a diving catch during the 2008 American Southwest Conference Softball Tournament on Saturday in Irving.

Men's tennis finishes one win shy of going to nationals

By Jeremy Cotham
Sports Editor

One more win and the No. 25 nationally ranked men's tennis team would be heading to Lewiston, Maine for the national tournament.

Instead, the Patriots men's tennis squad lost in the regional finals to regional host, No. 6 Gustavus Adolphus University, by a sweep of 5-0. The two-day event was held on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus in Saint Peter, Minn.

The Patriots got behind early in the doubles match, which hurt them in the end, as they were swept 3-0 in the doubles for the first time since April 14, 2007.

To get to the regional finals match, the Patriots men's team defeated Wisconsin-

Whitewater, the No. 30th nationally ranked team, by a score of 5-1 on Saturday. The men did play a first-round game because they received a bye.

This time, it was the men sweeping their opponent in the doubles match as Dustin Phillips and David Ashlock won 8-3, in the No. 1 doubles flight. Steven Campbell and Robert Sajovich won their match, 8-2, while Nick Kreines and Jordan Repsher finished out the doubles sweep by winning 8-1.

The two singles matches that the men won came from Phillips, who beat Whitewater's Lowe, 6-2, 6-1, and Ashlock won his match over Gilnert, 6-3, 6-1. The one singles match that the Patriots lost on Saturday was when Whitewater's Tim Moller beat Will McDonald,

6-4, 6-3.

The Patriots men's team finished their 2008 campaign at 18-7, winning the 2008 ASC Men's Tennis Championship and picking up an NCAA tournament win in the process.

On the women's side, they did not receive a first-round bye but that did not stop them from recording their first NCAA tournament win.

On Friday, in Claremont, Calif. on the campus on Pomona-Pitzer College, the women took on the No. 25 nationally ranked team, Chapman College.

They came away with the 5-3 victory as the Patriots women's tennis team became the first squad on campus to record an NCAA tournament team win.

In the doubles matches, the women took two

of the three as the team of Rachel Anders and Beth Launius and the team of Nicole Barrett and Michelle Hagler recorded the two wins in the doubles matches.

In the singles matches, Barrett took down Chapman's Laura Robinson, 6-3, 6-1, while Hagler defeated Sheehan Trippel, 6-0, 6-3 and Lauren Giovannini finished off the win for the Patriots as she won her match, 6-3, 6-4.

The women then turned around on Saturday and played in the second round against regional host and the No. 10 team in the nation, Pomona-Pitzer.

Unlike the first round, the Patriots only won one of the three doubles matches en route to a 5-2 loss. The women end their season with a record of 18-4.

May 5, 2008

Golf teams place third; Humphrey places first

By Jeremy Cotham
Sports Editor

ANNA — In their first appearance at the American Southwest Conference Golf Tournament, the Patriots men's and women's golf teams each finished in third place at Hurricane Creek Country Club.

The highlight of the day came from freshman Samantha Humphrey, who won the individual trophy after shooting a two-round total of 158. In the first round, Humphrey put up a round of 75 (+3) and concluded that on Tuesday with a second round of 83 (+11) at the Par-72 course.

"It is very exciting, I didn't think I was going to play this well today," Humphrey said. "I didn't think I was going to win the tournament, I never gave up. Transferring to UT Tyler was one of the best decisions I have ever made."

Humphrey, who is in her first semester at UT Tyler after transferring from the University of North Texas, has a chance to now advance on to the national tournament as an individual.

As a team, the men shot a 303-307-299 for the three-round tournament, total of 909.

The University of Mary-Hardin Baylor won the ASC Championship by finishing with a score of 885 and defending ASC champion, Texas Lutheran, finished in second with an 895.

Leading the way for the Patriots men's team were Brian Jennings (73-79-73) and Matt Stephens (75-76-74) who both tied for seventh place with a score of 225. Both Jennings and Stephens were named to the ASC All-Conference second team.

Eric White from UMHB won the men's individual trophy after shooting a 73-70-71 for a

total of 214.

One last top 10 finisher for the men was Jacob Walsh who ended with a score of 228.

Clay Holcomb (82-76-78-236), who finished in 23rd and Dustin Isabell (77-80-81-238), who finished in 26th, round up the scoring for the men's team.

"It was a bitter-sweet year from the guys standpoint, because we were ranked No. 5 in the nation and set a school record for the most tournament wins in a season," said golf head coach King Campbell. "We didn't win the tournament that counted the most, but we are going to learn from this, especially with the entire team returning next season."

On the women's side the Patriots finished the two-round tournament shooting a 338-353 for a total of 691.

McMurry University won the women's event, finishing with a 670. UMHB women finished in second with a 679.

Finishing behind Humphrey for the Patriots were Jordan Woodruff (85-92-177) and Amber Grounds (86-91-177) who both finished in a tie for 18th. The last two finishers for the women were Katie Harris (94-88-182) and Courtney Kruppa (92-91-183).

"Our women have been struggling this season, because we are very young, and they played their best round of the season yesterday, so they were able to hang onto third place today, which was great," Campbell said. "Samantha winning the tournament as a freshman was also very exciting for our program."

As next season begins in the fall, every player is eligible to return and Campbell said the experience players gained at the tournament should help the team make another run at a conference championship next year.



Samantha Humphrey



Staff photo by Kyle G. Horst
Patriots' Jacob Walsh chips to the green during the American Southwest Conference Championships in Anna on April 22.

Sports: America's modern mythology

The Mavericks just got eliminated from the playoffs - a tear-jerker if you are from the Dallas area. I knew it was going to happen, we all did, but yet we watched anyway.

That got me thinking: why do we watch sports in the first place, even if we know what the outcome might be?

My conclusion is, way back in the day (about 100 or so years ago), America needed a mythology. Britain has King Arthur, Greece had a plethora of myths, Scandinavians had Norse mythology, Middle Easterners had the big three religions, but America was without its own brand of mythology.

Without consciously knowing it, Americans implanted a mythology in the culture that lives to this day. The human mind seeks Myths for a variety of reasons, but the following are the primary purposes behind sports mythology.

MYTHOLOGY IS USED TO EXPLAIN THE UNEXPLAINABLE

The Greeks didn't know where fire came from, so they invented a story where Prometheus brought fire to humans.

Consequently, our grandparents had no idea why the Red Sox went so long without a World Series championship, so they invented a reason - the Babe Ruth trade.

Sports is full of these. No one knows why a certain team wins more than another team, or why one team goes on winning streaks while the other loses. It makes no sense, but we come up with reasons all the time.

When the Mavs play I try to wear one of my Dirk Nowitzki jerseys, and they usually win when I do.

The thought that my \$50 piece of clothing could be tied to the Mavericks shooting a higher percentage is completely absurd, but I'm going to go with it anyway.

MYTHOLOGY IS A WAY TO EXPLAIN THE UNUSUAL

While closely tied to "unexplainable," "unusual is still a



Allen Arrick

bit different. The unusual deals with phenomenon.

In Christian mythology, Jesus walked on water before his disciples. In basketball mythology, Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points in a single game (even though they're no videos of it).

Both of these acts are unusual and highly improbable, except if you're Jesus or Wilt respectively.

MYTHOLOGY IS USED TO EXPLAIN HEROES

Sports doesn't have any real heroes like Superman or the firefighters on Sept. 11, but it is a way to explain people who appear to be super-human.

The average human is about a foot shorter than the average basketball player, and that's the average basketball player, not a seven-footer. These people tower above us with their Herculean stature.

These heroes are there, year after year, but things never get dull.

Mythology provides us a way to make the same storylines new. Sports writers always talk about an athlete's past in rural Nigeria (Hakeem Olajuwon) or other rags-to-riches stories commonly found in mythology. The human mind will never find these stories dull. The entire Star Wars mythology revolves around this cycle, as does Moses and Oedipus.

Sure, myths can be found in movies, books and TV shows, but sports is the only mythology that was developed subconsciously.

Mythology is a way to make cyclical stories interesting, which keeps us watching season after season.

Men's track & field finishes third; women place fifth to end season

By Jeremy Cotham
Sports Editor

In the final event of their inaugural season, the University men and women's track and field teams went to Abilene for the 2008 American Southwest Conference Track & Field Championships and came away with respectable finishes.

The men's team finished in third place while the women placed fifth.

"Everybody who came gave their best effort," said track and field coach Bob Hepler. "A lot of our cross-country runners were recovering from injuries and they were not in the best shape. However, their goal was to finish the race and some of them actually won some of the events so they represented themselves very well."

Cross-country runner, Warren Brown, won both the 5,000 and 10,000 meter events, while teammate R.J. Cowan right behind Brown in second for both events. Fellow outgoing cross-country senior, Chauncey Deller, finished third in the 10,000 meter event to complete the podium sweep for the Patriots. Deller also finished third in the 3,000 meter steeplechase.

Other top finishers for the men were the 4x100 team of Marc Vestal, Zach Costlow, Paul Metzner and senior Marc Randle, who finished third in the event.

Adding to that finish was the other men's relay team of Michael Colvin, Ben Donnan, Brendan Bierman and Corey Daniel, which placed third in the 4x400 relay.

Lastly, Randle placed in second in the Triple Jump preliminaries, but came up short in the finals and finished fourth.

"Marc did really well in the triple jump. He finished in fourth because he dragged his hand on the sand and that's where they marked the jump, otherwise he would have

done better," Hepler said. "Marc is someone we picked up from our club team to help get our new track and field team going and he did a great job for us. He has one more year of eligibility remaining and plans to be back next year for us."

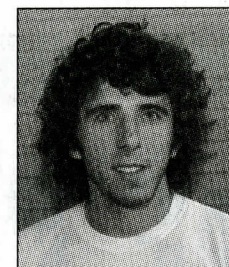
On the women's side, cross-country runner, Sarah Hankla, finished in fourth place, one off the podium, in the 10,000 meter run.

McMurry University, who played host to the event, won the ASC Championship on the men and women's side with the men winning their tenth straight and the third straight for the women.

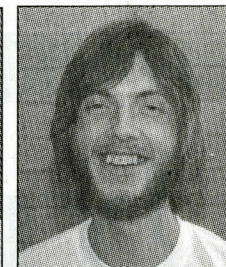
McMurry men's team finished with 284 points on 20 events scored while the women recorded 271 points.

Despite placing someone in every one of the 20 events, the Patriots men's team finished with 70 points while the women managed to score 5 points.

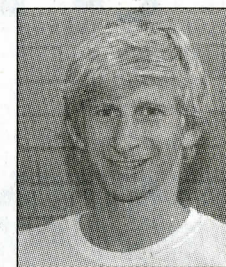
"The biggest thing for us in having a new track and field team and beginning



Warren Brown



R.J. Cowan



Chauncey Deller

the program in October, we did not have time to recruit anyone from high school," Hepler said. "Instead, we just recruited kids off campus and from other athletic teams and were not able to put a full team out there. The main goal this season was just to get the new program started and I believe that was successful."

Hepler said that the recruiting process is underway for next year's track and field team and that so far, it is going very well. Hepler also said that next season he plans to have enough players for each event so they can increase their chances of getting more overall points for the meet.

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Building renamed in honor of 'Your Honor'

By Robyn Hundley
Contributing Writer

His death nearly two years ago left an empty space in the hearts of his family, friends, and colleagues, but U.S. District Judge William M. "Bill" Steger now can be remembered by all who enter the doors of the Federal Building in downtown Tyler.

A ceremony renaming the building in Judge Steger's honor is scheduled for noon Friday at the Ferguson Street facility.

The dedication includes speeches from U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Tyler, and Dr. Rodney Mabry, president of The University of Texas at Tyler.

Steger's personal papers and items from his 35 years on the federal bench have been donated to the Robert R. Muntz Library at the University. Steger began his law career in 1951 and was appointed to the bench in 1970 by President Richard Nixon.

"We're working on an exhibit that will compliment the judge's life, using the papers we've acquired," said Joyce Deirdre, the University's archivist.

Ann Steger donated her husband's personal items, including his papers, person-

al photos, letters and robe, based on a relative's suggestion, Deirdre said.

She said she is dividing the items into four groups to display in the federal building's atrium. Those exhibits include: a kiosk containing judicial items and artifacts including his robes; a display in the main hallway dedicated to the development of Steger's judicial temperament, and separate exhibits in the two witness rooms.

The latter exhibits focus on Steger's personal life and political career, Deirdre said.

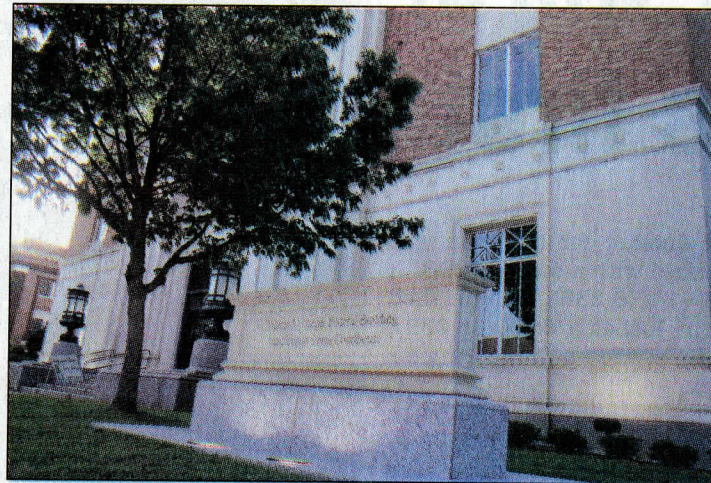
Steger, who was born Aug. 22, 1920, in Dallas, attended Baylor University and volunteered with the Army Air Corps during WWII after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

After the war, Steger earned his law degree from Southern Methodist University Law School and opened a private practice in Longview.

His political career included an unsuccessful campaign for Texas governor in 1960 and for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1962.

He was appointed a U.S. attorney and later served on the federal bench from 1970 until his death on June 4, 2006.

Mrs. Steger said her husband was a very compassion-



Staff photo by Michelle Morse

The William M. Steger Federal Building and United States Courthouse in downtown Tyler. Workers erected the sign bearing the building's new name on March 27.

ate man who was "big" on family. She said they enjoyed spending time with their son, who is now deceased, and loved fishing.

"My husband was a kind person, a man of integrity and faith who was also unselfish," Mrs. Steger said.

She recalled campaigning with her husband in 1960 on a budget of \$6,000. His candidacy marked the first time a Republican ran for governor, she said.

"His run for governor was not the most fun we've ever had," she said.

Mike Lantz, a docket clerk

for the district clerk's office, said he had the opportunity to meet Judge Steger when he wrote a magazine article about his campaign for governor.

"I only knew Judge Steger from a professional stance," Lantz said. "He was a man of great character and intelligence."

Lantz said Steger has a reputation as being personable, but challenging. The author said he is currently working on a biography showcasing past judges in Smith County.

{Police Reports

The following reports were compiled from Tyler and University police:

April 19, 20 - A person was reported missing from his Cambridge apartment. Police were notified when he returned and they searched the apartment. He was detained on a peace officer warrant and taken to ETMC Behavioral Health Center to receive mental help.

April 18 - University police were dispatched to the Power Plant North in reference to skateboarders in the area.

April 19 - University police issued five minor in possession of alcohol citations at Ornelas Hall.

April 19 - University police were called to the Patriot Zone in the University Center and asked a male subject who was causing a disturbance to leave the building.

April 21 - An antique Honduran mailbag was reported damaged in a Cambridge apartment.

April 21 - A door was damaged and two plasma televisions were reported stolen from a Varsity Place apartment.

April 22 - A male was arrested for criminally trespassing at Varsity Place.

April 24 - A burglary at The Cambridge was reported. A Nintendo Game Cube, four games, backpack with books, autographed basketball, food, Bluetooth earpiece and \$150 cash was reported stolen.

April 24 - A female reported her flash drive, computer and bag stolen.

April 25 - A student reported he was stabbed on the walking trail between Ornelas Hall and Patriot Village. See story on Page 1.

April 25 - A student reported someone put raw meat on her car at Patriot Village.

April 26 - A male was arrested for a warrant after failing to stop at a Varsity Place stop sign.

April 26 - A car was broken into at Varsity Place and \$231 was reported stolen.

April 26 - A female reported she continues to receive alarming e-mails.

April 30 - A female reported her boyfriend assaulted her at the Cambridge resulting in minor injuries.

April 30 - Someone reported a drill may have been stolen from the Ornelas Activity Center.

2008 STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Who's Who Among College Students

Rachael Marlowe, John Kirkpatrick, Michelle Arnett, Courtney Christenberry, Meredith Houston, Christy Grant, Matthew Mlcak, Brittany Traylor, Lindsey Palmer, Britney Hilbun, Laura Strube, Beth Launius, Lacey Mlcak, Anna Huttenhoff, Krysten Harris, Amanda Williams, Kasey Buggs, Ashlie Osburn

Fraternity Man of the Year

David Thompson

Sorority Woman of the Year

Christa Wilke

Greek Cup Winner

Pi Kappa Phi

Spirit of Service Award

Delta Gamma

Volunteer of the Year

Heather McBride

President's Volunteer Service Award

Matt Laney & Heather McBride

Emerging Leaders

Lauren Bartlett & Meredith Houston

Legacy Award

Greg Colvin

Student Leader Spotlight of the Year

Adam Lankford

Outstanding Student Organization

Presidents

Melissa Smith & Veronica Huff

Outstanding Student Organization

Adviser

Ashley Ward

Outstanding Student Organization Member

Sara Edwards

Program of the Year

Baptist Student Ministry Noon Lunch

Student Organization of the Year

Black Student Association

SGA Senator of the Year

Nancy Palencia

SGA Extra Mile Award

John Burden

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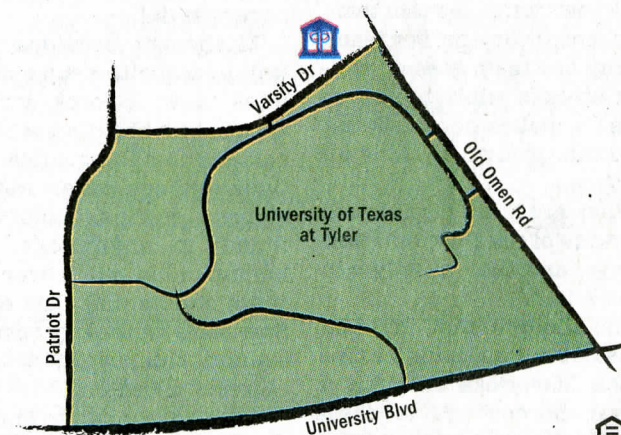
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